

**ABSTRACT**

A device for collecting and preserving nucleic acids in a sample, the device comprising:  
a) a support; b) one or more than one sample zone in the support for loading the sample onto  
the device; and c) a composition comprising i) one or more than one absorbent, and ii) one or  
5 more than one stabilizer; where the one or more than one sample zone on the support comprises  
a recess or space within the support extending from the top surface toward, but not through, the  
bottom surface, or comprises a space within the support and the composition is retained within  
the sample zone. A method for collecting and preserving nucleic acids in a sample, the method  
comprising a) providing a device for collecting and preserving nucleic acids in a sample  
10 according to the present invention; b) providing a sample potentially comprising one or more  
than one nucleic acid; and c) applying part or all of the sample to one or more than one of the  
sample zones on the device. A method of detecting and quantifying nucleic acids in a sample,  
the method comprising a) collecting and preserving nucleic acids in the sample according to a  
method of the present invention; b) removing the absorbent with sample from the sample zones  
15 of the device; and c) detecting, or detecting and quantifying the nucleic acids.